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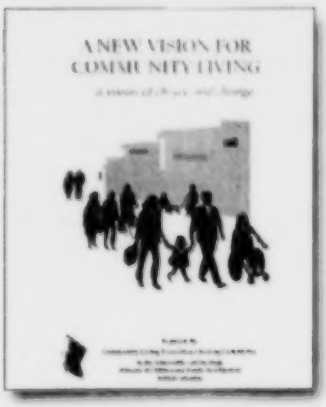
A Brief Summary of the Community Living Transition Steering Committee Report Written in Plain Language

Introduction

This paper is a short summary of the main ideas from the report "A New Vision of Community Living ... a vision of choice and change". The ideas in the full report and this summary have not been approved or agreed to by the government. Right now, the ideas are only recommendations. The report is available for everyone from the Ministry's web site at: **www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/change/cltsc_report.htm** or from one of the Ministry offices.

Background

The Honourable Gordon Hogg, Minister for Children and Family Development, asked people in the community living movement to meet and develop a plan for making changes to the way services are provided for people with disabilities and their families. The Community Living Transition Steering Committee is the group that was formed (in this report called the Steering Committee). The people of this group included self-advocates, family members, staff who work for service providers and staff who work for the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Steering Committee worked together from April 2002 to October 2002 to develop the report.



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The Steering Committee developed small work groups to help with the plan for changes and each work group was given a specific topic. The work group topics were:

- ***Governance*** *(how the decisions and planning will be done)*
- ***Accountability and Information Transfer Planning*** *(how changes will be made and what will be reported to government)*
- ***Individualized Funding and Planning Options*** *(how individuals and families will be supported)*
- ***Services to Children with Special Needs*** *(considerations about children and their families)*
- ***Communications*** *(letting people know about what is going on)*
- ***Human Resource and Finance*** *(how the money and staff will be divided)*

The Steering Committee at work

"The members of the Steering Committee discussed all the ideas and then wrote one report for the Minister of Children and Family Development."

The work groups discussed ideas and concerns about the system and then wrote reports for the Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee discussed all the ideas and then wrote one report for the Minister of Children and Family Development. The Minister will decide what changes will be made to improve the services and supports for people with disabilities and their families.

The report given to the Minister is 455 pages and includes information about the Steering Committee and the members, the new vision for community living, and about the new organization called Community Living BC. The report also talks about financial information and concerns, the major themes of the report and includes 59 recommendations. The report also has copies of the minutes from the Steering Committee meetings and the reports written by the work groups.

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A New Vision for Community Living (What is in the report)

The government and people in community living were concerned about how services were operating and about the people waiting for services, and the rights of people with disabilities to live in the community and contribute as full citizens. Everyone was concerned about how to support families who have children with special needs.

A different way of providing support to families and individuals was needed. The Steering Committee's report describes a new vision for community living services. The new vision is discussed in the sections that follow and is based on these important ideas from people in community living:

A setting for open discussion...

- *Just making minor changes in the Ministry's current systems has not improved services,*
- *the new way needed to be based on the gifts and positive things about people, not just what they need,*
- *people in community living were already trying to change and improve how people were supported, and,*
- *the government staff were invited to make changes too.*

"A different way of providing support to families and individuals was needed. The Steering Committee's report describes a new vision for community living services."

Co-Chair, David Driscoll and MCFD Executive Director Robin Syme listen to the discussion

Frank van Zandwijk, Petra Young, Roberta Loughlin representing the MCFD contributed so much to the steering committee

Self-Advocates Jeff Moulins and Cathy Grant participate in the debate

Community Governance Transferring Control over Services and Support

Stan Remple— Project Director, Graham McMynn and Deanna Kratzenberg - Service Providers at a meeting of the steering committee

The responsibility for community living services will be taken over by a new provincial community organization called Community Living British Columbia. This organization is called the "new Authority". The members of the Board of the new Authority will be 13 people from across the province with the skills and experience to guide the organization. At least 7 members will be people with a disability or a family member of a person with a disability.

The work of the new Authority will be based on a partnership with communities. The new Authority do the work involved with community living services including managing contracts for services for individuals and families, planning for future needs in community living, developing new and different ways of providing support, and making sure there is a way for problems and disagreements to be resolved. The government will still be responsible for providing the funding for community living and making sure that the support and services are the best they can be.

The Steering Committee talked about the principles that everyone would agree to follow when developing the new vision. The principles include:

- All people have gifts and talents
- Paid services are not the only answer
- Innovative and creative ideas are encouraged
- With help people often can solve their own problems
- Individuals and families may need life long support
- People need to trust each other
- By helping individuals and families become stronger they may need less paid support
- The system needs to see people for their strengths and not their needs
- The money from government should be used the best way possible
- Individuals and families should have a choice about whether they use Individualized Funding and independent planning support
- Supports need to be flexible and based on what the person or family needs
- Support for families and individuals will be improved by reducing some rules that are barriers

Relationships and Independent Planning Support Centres

A new idea is that individuals and families will be able to get planning and advice from someone who does not work for the government and is not an employee of the new Authority or a service provider. It is important for the planning people to be different from the funding people. The planning people will work in the communities where individuals and families live.

The Steering Committee proposes to create an Independent Planning Support Commission (called the "new Commission"). The new Commission would open planning centres in different communities in the province. The planning staff will work with individuals and families to develop creative and flexible plans to help meet their needs. The planning people will also work with the service providers, the new Authority staff and with other people in the community.

There are two very important things about the Independent Planning Commission:

1. **The planning will be separate from the decisions about money**—*this means the planning people will work together with the people who can approve the money for the plans but they will have a different person for their boss, called the Commissioner. This person will report to the government about how well the planning service is working.*

2. ***The Planning Commission, the Planning Centres and the staff, will work to help communities think of new ways of supporting people and families***—*this is described in the report as a 'community development' focus.*

"The report recommends that Individualized Funding be offered to individuals and families."

The Steering Committee at work

"The new Commission would open planning centres in different communities in the province. The planning staff will work with individuals and families to develop creative and flexible plans to help meet their needs.

Choice: Individualized Funding

The report recommends that Individualized Funding be offered to individuals and families. Individualized Funding or IF as it is sometimes called, is an option that gives money directly to families and individuals to pay for the services they need related to their dis-

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Jeff Moulins has some help taking notes at a steering committee meeting

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ability. This means people should get more of what they really need and less of what they don't need. Individualized Funding also means people can buy services where they want in British Columbia.

The report says that individuals and families should have a choice about Individualized Funding because it may not be for everyone. Individualized Funding does not mean there will always be enough money for everyone who asks for services but it can help people get what they need when they need it. Many people around the world who have Individualized Funding like it because it gives them more choices and control about what services they receive.

"The new Authority is called determining 'outcomes'. 'Outcome' is another word for goal and the report says that the new Authority must pay attention to goals that relate to the quality of services and also to goals that are personal and that talk about how people want to live in their communities."

Accountability and Trust

Accountability is when people talk about being held responsible for what they say they are going to do. The report says that the new Authority has to expect to be held responsible for how they spend government money and for the supports and services they provide to individuals and families. They will need to have a good relationship with the people who work for the government and with individuals and families. The new Authority will be responsible for how the government money is spent. It will also be responsible for treating individuals and families with respect. The new Authority must work with people to find out what is important to them. In the report this is called determining 'outcomes'. 'Outcome' is another word for goal and the report says that the new Authority must pay attention to goals that relate to the quality of services and also to goals that are personal and that talk about how people want to live in their communities. When the report talks about establishing personal goals, it says that the most important part of this is the relationships that people have with their families and friends. The new Authority will also have to show how the money is spent on the services and supports people need to meet the goals.

The new Authority will respect individuals and families and try to remove the barriers that stop people from getting the support they need. Both the new authority and the govern-

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Bryce Schaufelberger, Jo Dickey, Tim Stainton listen to the discussion

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ment want the services and supports to help make a positive change with individuals and families.

The new Authority will collect information to give to the government to show how the money was spent. This information will not include the names of individuals and families who received the money or services. The new Authority will follow the rules about how the government money is spent and will not borrow money or spend more that the government provides to the new Authority without talking to the Minister for Children and Family Development.

Waitlist, Capacity and Community Development

An important goal of the new Authority is to help the people who are waiting for services and the people who need more help than what they are getting now. The new Authority will also try to reduce the cost of the services and try to help individuals become more independent.

The Steering Committee wants less money spent on running offices and more for services. The Steering Committee wants to increase the support families get so they can keep their family together and get more people from the community helping each other. The new Authority will work together with the individuals, families and service providers to find savings and increase services.

The report often talks about 'capacity' and 'building capacity'. The Steering Committee uses these terms to describe how the planning Commission will work with communities to develop new ways of supporting and including people.

"The Steering Committee wants less money spent on running offices and more for services. The Steering Committee wants to increase the support families get so they can keep their family together and get more people from the

Regulations and Bureaucracy

The Steering Committee recommends that fewer staff should work in community living than are currently working for government and that the money saved by reducing the number of staff should go to more supports and services. The Steering Committee recommends that the community planning centres and service providers would be the primary main places for people to go for help. The new Authority would have a single provincial office or small regional offices. Many government offices would be closed.

The Steering Committee at work

Financial Information and Terms

Doug Woollard - Service Provider and Muriel Hansen MCFD Manager

"The new Authority needs to make sure people are safe during all of the changes and that there are enough staff to support everyone. The new Authority also wants the government to give everyone who gets residential services their full benefits now called DBII."

The Steering Committee made a recommendation about how much money would need to be transferred from government. Some people who work for the government might want to work for the new Authority. The Steering Committee also suggests the new Authority will need some of the equipment and furniture government owns.

The change in how services are provided to individuals and families will be very big and involves many people. The new Authority will need enough money to pay for extra expenses when the services are transferred from the government. The new Authority needs to make sure people are safe during all of the changes and that there are enough staff to support everyone. The new Authority also wants the government to give everyone who gets residential services their full benefits now called DBII.

The government and some members from the Steering Committee formed a group called the "Joint Budget Working Group" to make recommendations about the money and staff. This group worked together over a two-week period and has made recommendations to the Minister and the Treasury Board on the amount of money that is needed for the next fiscal year (April 2003 to March 2004). Both the Steering Committee and the government are happy with the agreement that was reached and they have said that no individual or family will need to change their service or support unless they want to.

Steering Committee meets on October 22 for final approval of the report

Recommendations and Major Themes

There are major themes that cover the 59 recommendations from the *Steering Committee*. The major themes and recommendations are:

	Recommendations
Community-based Governance	Services move from 'government provided to community delivered, (government still pays for the services but the community has more say in how the services are provided)
	New legislation to create "Community Living British Columbia"
	More than half of the Directors on the Board of the new Authority will be self advocates or family members
	Better use of existing community services and the creation of new services to ensure safety & well-being
	New Planning Support "Commission" with self advocates and family members
	12-15 Community Planning Support Centres across the province Citizenship & Choice
Citizenship and Choice	Support to enhance people's ability to contribute as citizens
	Individualized Funding as a choice for people
	Life long support and transition planning for children and adults who need it
	Encourage contributions from families & individuals to enhance the support received and recognition for contributions when paying income tax
	Payment allowed to family members to provide care where it is the best option
Accountability & Transparency	Financial reports to government and the public
	Reports about accomplishments to government and people receiving support
	Working with the amount of money provided by government
	Recognizing personal benefits and service results are not the same thing
	Developing a way to solve disagreements and problems
	Board meetings open to everyone
Safety & Well-being	Monitoring quality of life, safety and well-being for individuals and families receiving services
	Maintain community living programs provided by the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Authorities
	Give the new Authority the funding for mental health programs for people with developmental disabilities
	Maintain the funding for children with special needs who are in care

Next Steps

"In December and January 2003, the Interim Authority and the ministry will hold meetings around the province to give people a chance to hear first hand about the report and how things are moving along."

Now the Minister of Children and Family Development has the recommendations from the Community Living Transition Steering Committee Report. The Minister has asked some government staff to read the report and tell him what they think about the plans for change. The Minister needs to decide what the government should do and get the support from the rest of the government and the community to make changes.

The Minister will ask the government to approve a new law about the plan and the changes – this should happen in April or May 2003. After this, individuals and families in community living and the government will need to work together to change how things are done now and to find new ways of providing services and supports in the community.

In November, the Legislature passed Bill 65 -The Community Services Interim Authority Act so the Minister could create an "Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia". This Interim Authority and the government will ensure community supports are provided to individuals and families and that people are safe and ensure there is enough money to make the changes. The new Authority will also start to make plans for the future about how things will work with the new system.

In December and January 2003, the Interim Authority and the ministry will hold meetings around the province to give people a chance to hear first hand about the report and how things are moving along. Information will be available from ministry offices and from the contacts below on when and where these meetings will be held.

Glossary

Community Living Services Transition Steering Committee (CLSTSC) or Steering Committee: This is the name of the group of people who were asked to write a report for the Minister of Children and Family Development.

The New Vision: This is a dream about the future for a different way of supporting individuals and families.

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Contacts:

If you want more information about the report or you would like to have your say about the ideas in the report, there are some people you may contact. For more information about the report to the Minister you could contact people who were members of the Community Living Transition Steering Committee at:

http://www.cltsc.bc.ca/Web_Feedback_on_Final_Report.htm

or you could mail your thoughts to the

Ministry of Children and
Family Development at
Community Living Transition

PO BOX 9771
Stn ProvGovt
Victoria, BC V8W 9S5

or email: Frank.VanZandwijk@gems8.gov.bc.ca

To give feedback about the ideas in the report you could contact the Community Living Coalition at:

www.communitylivingcoalition.bc.ca

If you are involved with a community living service provider, someone who works for the organization could also help you to provide feedback about the report.

Glossary

Principles: These are things everyone agreed were important to consider when thinking about making changes.

Community Living British Columbia: This is the provincial organization also called the new Authority that will manage the community living services and money.

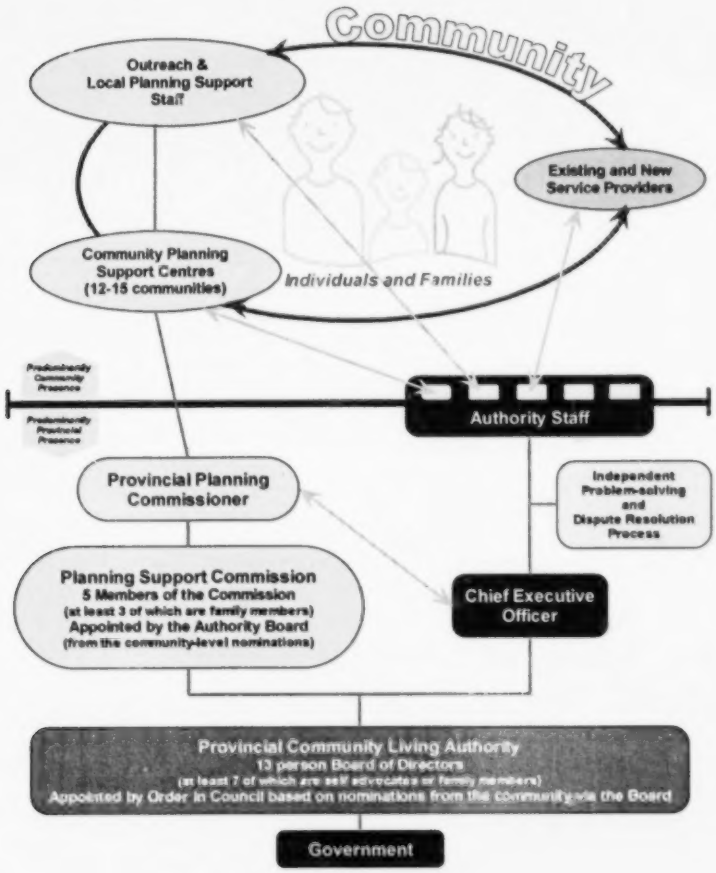
The Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia: This is the provincial organization that will continue the work of the CLSTSC and that will manage community living services until the new Authority, Community Living British Columbia, is established.

Capacity is used to describe the good things that happen if time, effort and money is spent on activities that help the community support the people who live there better.

Treasury Board is the people who decide how the government money is spent.

Community Development is working with people who live in a community to see the gifts that everyone has and to support each other in getting what you need to enjoy your life.

The New Authority and Commission Organizations


Community
Outreach & Local Planning Support Staff
Existing and New Service Providers
Community Planning Support Centres (12-15 communities)
Individuals and Families
Predominantly Community Presence
Predominantly Provincial Presence
Authority Staff
Provincial Planning Commissioner
Independent Problem-solving and Dispute Resolution Process
Planning Support Commission
5 Members of the Commission
(at least 3 of which are family members)
Appointed by the Authority Board
(from the community-level nominations)
Chief Executive Officer
Provincial Community Living Authority
13 person Board of Directors
(at least 7 of which are self advocates or family members)
Appointed by Order in Council based on nominations from the community via the Board
Government

A closing comment from the Committee Co-Chair:

It was a privilege and an honour to be able to work with family members and self advocates who gave so freely of their time and energy to help us craft a new vision for community living services. I commend them all for the personal effort and commitment they brought to this task and was pleased to join with them in presenting the Final Report *A New Vision for Community Living . . . a vision of choice and change*, to Minister Hogg.

David Driscoll
Community Co-Chair
Transition Steering Committee